

displaying the list of item categories and subcategories via the Internet to a plurality of potential buyers, each potential buyer being able to browse the item categories and subcategories selectively to search for a desired item offered for auction; and receiving bids from potential buyers on desired items offered for auction.

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147. The method of claim 11 or 26 wherein the communication handler program comprises a Unix daemon.--

REMARKS

The Examiner's helpful consideration during the personal interview conducted on March 21, 2000 is acknowledged with appreciation. In view of the agreement reached at the interview, reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Claims 11-147 are now pending with claims 11, 20, 26, 33, 40, 43, 49, 54-63, 133 and 146 being independent. Claims 11-38, 40-45, 47-49 and 52-63 have been amended whereas claims 64-147 are newly presented for consideration. New claims 64-147 find support in the specification and figures at least at the same locations as claims 11-63. No new matter has been added.

For the reasons set forth at pages 2-9 of the office action, claims 11-63 stand rejected variously under 35 USC 102 and 103 as being unpatentable over one or more of Silverman (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,501) and Dedrick (U.S. Patent No. 5,752,238). These rejections and their underlying rationale are traversed. In addition, new claims 64-147 are allowable for the reasons discussed below.


As agreed during the interview, neither Silverman nor Dedrick discloses or suggests the "list of categories" feature recited in independent claims 55 and 58-63 as originally presented. In addition, the remaining independent claims previously presented -- 11, 20, 26, 33, 40, 43, 49, 54, 56 and 57 -- and the newly presented independent claims 133 and 146 have been amended to recite the "list of categories" feature. Accordingly, because all pending independent claims include the "list of categories" feature, the independent claims as presented are allowable over the art of record.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims discussed above. Accordingly, the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable and for reciting allowable subject matter in their own right. Independent consideration and allowance of the dependent claims are requested.

This application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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